SIERRA CLUB YODELER

Volume VI June 19, 1944 Number 11

CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION COUNCIL MEETS

How conservation measures may aid in the war effort was the keynote of the Regional meeting of the California Conservation Council, held last Saturday in San Francisco. Speakers representing the Army, the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, the Department of Natural Resources, and the University of California all emphasized the need for a "Waste Not" approach to the problem of meeting war-time requirements.

Immediate Needs Considered

Observers who may have been hoping for a preview of postwar measures were doomed to disappointment. Apparently no plans are yet ready for meeting the problems sure to arise then. However, some indications of long-range policy were found in statements of the need for proper soil conservation procedures, and in the examples cited by one speaker of good forest management.

Californians inclined to view with provincial complacency the erosional devastation of farm lands in other states must be made to realize that it can happen here. What's more, it does. Already 5½ million acres of California land are in serious danger of becoming valueless--if not already so--and 42 million more acres need carefully planned soil conservation if they are to continue productive. The heartening side of this picture is the fact that farmer-owned and farmer-administered soil conservation districts--thirty now set up, others in the process of formation--within the State are helping not only to save soil but to increase agricultural production.

Forest Problems Discussed

The forest situation in California is not hard to visualize from these two statements: Fifty percent of all lumber products used to supply (cont. p. 4)

FORMER DIRECTOR WRITES ON WILDERNESS

(We are indebted to Dick Leonard for this most excellent comment on planes in the wilderness)

While on a DC-3 flying to Kansas City I thought over the comment in the Yodeler (as written by one of the correspondents) that we need not worry about high speed planes as a menace to the wilderness. Actually, the smaller, cheaper planes are the ones that have the ability to get into wilderness areas. While the helicopter may not yet be a common sight, the tiny basic trainers and the artillery observation planes are already in production by the thousands. The latter, particularly, are designed to operate from almost any natural mountain meadow, sandy flat, or firm gravel bar. A prepared field is not required.

Threat to Wilderness Explained

Why do people want to take a plane into wilderness areas? Generally it is because it is a wilderness. They already have fine highways and airports at Clear Lake and Lake Tahoe. But they don't want to go there. "Too many people--all fished out--I want to get away from civilization for a few days." So they wish to take their planes to Tilden Lake, Evolution Lake, or Rae Lake, where they know that they can now "get away from people and civilization, and have good fishing."

So let us look ahead a few years. Six-hour travel from New York is a reality even now. By then large numbers of the 70,000,000 people living east of Indiana can leave home in the late evening, hire a low-speed "mountain taxi" at Reno or Los Angeles, and be at Rae Lake by lunch the next day. But, the tragedy is, there just wouldn't be room to camp! Yosemite Valley on Memorial Day would be just as wild as our mountain (cont. p. 4)

SIERRA CLUB YODELER

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Next Deadline: Monday, July 10, 7:30 pm

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IT SEEMS TO US--

Maybe it's a subtle attempt to get back at us for the editorial dig we gave Mugelnoos a few weeks ago. Maybe it is a sort of serene unconsciousness of most of what goes on north of the Tehachapi. At any rate, we were surprised to see, in the current issue of the Southern Chapter's news sheet, a couple of references to Yodeler articles credited to Bonanza. True, the latter did quote them from Yodeler. But their first appearance was in the yellow sheet. We are amused. It brings to mind the deviously received report of Mugeleditor's reaction to our teasing: "I guess the best answer to that is to ignore it." All right, so we're being ignored.

Not that we would want to detract credit from the Mother Lode Chapter's excellent little paper. We are going to take advantage of this opportunity to express our admiration for the work that Gus Frugé and his staff are turning out. Bonanza is now achieving a fine presentation of local news, conservation information, and local mountain lore, and the quality of their mimeographing work is something to excite our envy. Congratulations, Mother Lode Chapter, on your praiseworthy representative.

ARE YOU REMEMBERING ABOUT THE BLOOD BANK? PHONE FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT: IN OAKLAND, TEMPLEBAR 5924; IN SAN FRANCISCO, GRAYSTONE 9373. YOU MAY SAVE A LIFE!

KEEPING TRACK OF RCS MEMBERS

(This continuation from Yodeler No. 10 brings the most recent reports we've had on the activities of RCS members. We shall be grateful for corrections or additional news)

Lt. LEWIS CLARK, USNR, under whose chairmanship the RCS first became a part of the Bay Chapter, carries on his special electrical work at a Navy base on a South Pacific Island. (We are still awaiting the account of his first airplane flight, as promised last January. How about it, LFC?)

We haven't heard from Capt. FRED KELLEY of the Air Corps since the evening, a number of months ago, on which he came (stiff leggedly, his knee in a cast) into the Club office on his way from Florida to Idaho or Utah.

Air Corps Lt. FRITZ LIPPMANN wrote recently from the hospital at Santa Ana, where he is recuperating from a broken ankle (skiing accident), that he was expecting to be home on leave this month. and Lt. ROBIN HANSEN was last heard from at a Northern California air field.

TOM RIXON, holding a war job in San Francisco, recently underwent a serious but successful eye operation. Word comes at infrequent intervals from JACK ("Beaver") ARNOLD, of the RCAF, who has been prisoner in Germany since early in the war. He is said to take great comfort in reading and rereading his book on the ascent of the Eiger.

Lt. DeWITT ALLEN has been reported as "somewhere in the South Pacific"; we believe his wife lives in Berkeley. "BE" (JOSEPHINE) ALLEN was in Kelseyville with her parents, the last we heard.

HARRIET PLUNKETT spends most of her time at the family ranch near Napa.

Visiting Marin County daily, though not for hiking purposes, are three Marinship employes: OLIVER KEHRLEIN (Safety Engineer), DICK JOHNSON (Leaderman Shipfitter), and RUTH WALE (nurse). DAISY JOHNSON is employed with the State Department of Public Health, in San Francisco.

MORGAN HARRIS is to be teaching ASTP pre-med students on the UC campus this summer, then he and MARGE move north for Morgan's new teaching position at University of Washington (cont. p. 6)

FOR SALE: Snap fastened, canvas covered sleeping bag, "Forest Ranger" brand, very good condition, $8.50. Lucile White, 1250 Bush Street.



Remember the fun, the food, the people; the satisfied glow of work accomplished; the lovely outline of the hills as darkness fell over the valley and you relaxed into well earned sleep?

Camp Dates: August 27 to September 18

Information and registration blanks will be sent to you later, but we do want a preview of attendance from Yodelereaders and their friends. So we ask you to clip, fill in, and send us this blank, indicating when you and any friends may be with us. This is not a definite registration, but will help us greatly in organizing the camp. Address communications:

THE HARVEST CAMP COMMITTEE
Sierra Club, 1050 Mills Tower
San Francisco 4, Calif.

Name:

Address and Telephone:

Probable Dates (inclusive) at Camp:

Names and Addresses of Friends Wishing Information:

BE SURE TO MAKE LABOR DAY THE BIG WEEK END OF THE HARVEST SEASON

Special Note: Alternatives Possible. Attend the Sierra Club Harvest Camp at Saint Helena if you can, but if you cannot take your vacation between August 27 and September 18, then any of the following camps will welcome you with open arms:

Sebastopol, June 18 to Aug. 27
Brentwood, June 27 to July 25
Vacaville, June 20 to July 10
Sonoma, July 15 through the summer

The above camps are for women only, but there is also to be a family camp at Brentwood, and the Farm Labor Office can place families on individual ranches. For additional information, apply to the Farm Labor Office, Agricultural Extension Service:

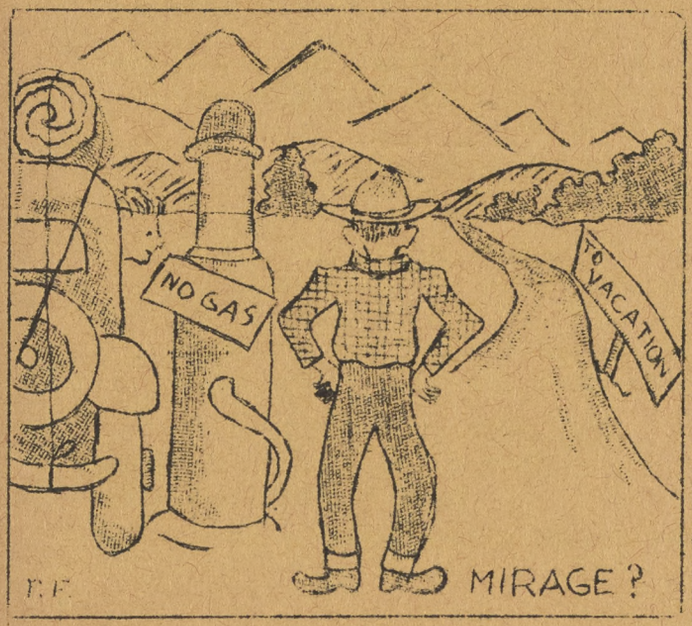
in San Francisco,
Merchant's Exchange Bldg.,
465 California Street

in Berkeley,
Farm Credit Bldg.,
Milvia at Center Street

THE CLEARING HOUSE

WANTED: Sleeping bag, tapered shape, preferably down or down & feathers, for Lt. Ambadas S. Mulay on overseas duty. Contact Albert Glenn, EX 0778 (days) or MI 7224 (evenings); 559 Wisconsin St., S. F. 10.

WANTED: Sierra Club girl to share tent at Camp Curry (Yosemite) for one week ($8.75); leaving here July 19. Reservations must be made by July 1. Call Ruby Nolan, MOntrose 0667.



Director on Wilderness (cont. from p. 1)

"airports" in the air age.

The prime reason for wanting to go there in the first place would have vanished. Clear Lake and Tahoe would then actually be more secluded and more desirable in many ways than the tragically ravished, once beautiful wilderness area.

True wilderness, with all its manifold values, is vanishing rapidly. We simply must preserve some as a balance for a highly mechanized life.

FORMER SIERRAN CHEERS INVADING YANKS

Metropolitan papers are carrying the story of Birnelyn Seymour of Berkeley, who was one of the few American girls who had the chance to bid the boys good bye as they embarked for the invasion. Operator of a Red Cross Clubmobile at one of the highly secret embarkation points, she was among the last to cheer the men on their way.

Birnelyn was formerly hostess at Clair Tappaan Lodge.

YODELEARS HEAR

--from Cpl. Ray L'Esperance, who is happy to have been transferred back into the Signal-Air-Corps. He writes of having gone to Italy immediately after the Sicilian campaign, and, passing a high speed radio operator's test, being assigned to a unit "which has the reputation of being the finest in the whole Mediterranean area." Like many another overseas, Ray wants news from home.
(The Club office forwards mail addressed to members whose overseas address we cannot publish--if we know the address)

--that Elizabeth and Joe Brower and little daughter Suzanne have moved from Berkeley to a new home down the peninsula.

--that Lt. Fred Holmes is at Camp Claiborne, La., where "there are plenty of forests but no mountains."

--by postal card from Glen Dawson, climbing instructor in West Virginia, that "the Sierra Club is playing an active part in this school." The photograph of the rocks on which Army climbers disport (?) suggests St. Helena Palisades.

Conservation Council (cont. from p. 1)

the Nation's war and domestic needs comes from the forests of the western states; California consumes more timber than it grows! If we recognize that timber is a crop, and just as any other crop, should be harvested, then we most certainly should encourage and support measures to renew forest growth as well as to make the most efficient and economical use of what is now being cut. The ghost towns of northern California lumber areas of earlier days should serve as constant warnings. We cannot afford to forget that 87% of California's forest fires are man-caused, and therefore preventable.

Brigadier-General Warren T. Hannum, speaking for the State Department of Natural Resources, pointed out that in many cases conservation should mean, not locking up resources for future generations, but using without waste and making provision for renewal when possible. A non-renewable resource should be used with the minimum of waste.

The program was rounded out with two motion pictures: "Guadalcanal," loaned by the US Navy and OWI; and Bert Harwell's fine color film, "Ducks and Geese on Reserves."

NATURAL SCIENCE SECTION

Anticipating Good Things to Come

Natural Scientists ended their evening meetings for the season with a Kodachrome variety show put on by Dick Johnson, Laura Smith, and Charles Townsend. Dick showed wild flowers from the NSS trip to Sonoma Valley and scenes from a 1943 knapsacking trip through the Yosemite high country. Laura reminisced with pictures of a 1939 camping trip through the Kings-Kern, of the 1941 Garnet Lake Base Camp, and of a 1943 vacation at Clair Tappaan Lodge. Finally Charles regaled us with scenes from the 1941 Memorial Day Outing to Yosemite, from the 1941 High Trip, and from the 1942 Base Camp. Here in 1944 our Sierran outings may seem far away and long ago but really they are coming up just around the corner along with the peace for which we're all sacrificing these days.

Birds, Bugs, and Botany

The last field trip of the season was a "honey", the weather to the contrary. Although we were greeted in Ross by rain-in-the-face and were hustled out of Lagunitas Meadows in late afternoon by squall-in-the-back, in between and afterwards the day was most delightful. Birds, bugs, and botany were bountiful and beautiful. Zoologically the outstanding sight was the bout between caterpillar and lizard in which the caterpillar was completely demolished, and the botanical treats were the Stream Orchids at Camp Handy and the Lady's Tresses Orchids in Lagunitas Meadows. When we arrived in Deer Park at 5:30 p.m. we expected to join the Local Walkers who were scheduled to sup there, but, since none could be found, the posy-sniffers had supper without them. Could it be that Fido, the canine custodian, was trying to tell us that the day's meteorological miscarriage had proved too much for the Local Walkers and that they had retired sine coena?

Calendar

Tutti Frutti Hike: probably Sunday, Aug. 20. Watch YODELER for details.

Evening meeting: Sept. 15.

If any Sunday trips are arranged during the summer, they will be announced in the YODELER.

ADD-LIBEING

Rock climbers and skiers will find the June 1944 issue of Appalachia particularly interesting.

Lt. Peter Hostmark has contributed an excerpt from his log book of a salvage party to a wrecked airplane in Greenland, late last year.

The first part of the trip was made by ship. Then dog sleds and skis were used for the ascent to the ice-cap. The wreck was found, investigated, and the return trip was completed, all without mishap.

Hostmark's straight-forward account of this expedition makes interesting reading. Our guess is that the "ski mountaineers" would consider Hostmark and his men as qualified for membership.

Rock-and-glacier men will not fail to appreciate a translation of an article by J. Frederick Fino on "Cordilleran Climbs". The action takes place in the Nahuel Huapi region, an Argentine national park close by Bariloche and adjacent Chilean national parks.

Skiers will remember the article on the "capstone of Vermont", Mount Mansfield, as a source of information on trails and lodgings in this part of the East, in case winter should find them in New England.

Experience with previous issues would lead one to expect something of interest from the Rockies, as indeed there is. This time it concerns that gem of many facets, Grand Teton National Park, an account intriguing for rock-climbers, to say the least. ---- W. T. A.

* * * * *

Another issue of The Living Wilderness has just been published and, as usual, It's a mighty worth-while issue from the conservationists' viewpoint.

Lyle F. Watts, chief of the National Forest Service, contributes an article entitled "Do People Really Want Forest Conservation?" and Newton B. Drury, director of the National Park Service, tells "What the War is Doing to National Parks and Where They Will be at its Close".

The forest service head makes a strong plea for action upon the part of conservation associations, whom he says now are so inarticulate that the voice of popular interest can scarcely be heard. Drury points out that the (Cont'd Page 6)

LOMA PRIETA PRATIN'S

Annual Spring Party, June 17-18 You just can't beat those Duvenecks for a super feelin'right-at-home hospitality. They opened wide the doors of their capacious Hidden Villa Ranch again last Saturday, and the L. P.-ans began to gather in the late afternoon for an outdoor barbecue supper, and by 8 o'clock there were more than sixty to amble up to the living room of the big Duveneck home.

A bit of folk dancing preceded picture showing (daylight saving throwing dusk off schedule), but later all reminisced a bit nostalgically over Kenneth Meserole's Kodachrome movies and stills of the High Sierra and of the San Francisco World's Fair. Then, back to the realm of Terpsichore as the living room walls bulged in order to escape the onslaught of flinging heels and whirling skirts. A couple of new progressive mixer dances were introduced to the group by Don Woods and John Cassel, and of course the orchestra was aga in led by Maestro Harvey Dowling via his record player.

Winding up the evening with a rousing cheer for the Duvenecks, those who were fortunate enough to stay over found their respective sleeping bags and holed in. The evening was a real initiation for at least three newcomers who had never before slept out. (P. S.: They survived)

Sunday's hike, led by Frank Duveneck, was along a beautiful trail up to the top of a ridge, where the view was up to its usual degree of perfection.

Next Sunday Coe Reed leads a trip through the Morshead Estate. If you can pool enough gasoline, meet at the Woodside Store at 9:30. Bee-youtiful country!

News to Youse

Mac Marie Irons left yesterday for the 10-day National Red Cross Aquatic School at Beaver Lake near Seattle; she is a delegate of the San Jose Chapter, American Red Cross.

The Al Poulters have a new addition to their family. No, not that! It's just a little black cocker spaniel pup.

Add-Libeing (cont. from p. 5)

NPS now has gone down, under war conditions, to little more than a protection and maintenance basis. He refers briefly to the Jackson Hole situation. Supplementing his reference is "The Spirit of Jackson Hole," by Olaus J. Murie.

TAYLOR TRIPPERS TOUGHENED

On an overnight outing characterized by surprises, one of the best was the reappearance of Walter Rivers, long missing from Sierra Club events. One of the most unusual was the excess of transportation; six more persons could have had rides had they called the leader.

The congenial overnight group of eight enjoyed the informal program carried out by Marty Cronin, and found it a good opportunity for getting acquainted.

Sunday morning's bus brought eight more hardy souls, and Walter Rivers led the group to the top of Barnabe Mountain. By the time the hikers had returned to camp, it had been agreed that all participants in the trip were entitled to a "Commando Diploma" in recognition of their negotiation of the rough trail.

Keeping Track (cont. from p. 2)

Morgan also tells us that ALAN HEDDEN is now on the Berkeley campus, in the ASTP program.

JIM HARKINS, still living in Berkeley, works at a Richmond shipyard and spends much of his spare time enlarging or listening to an extensive library of recorded music.

HERVEY VOGE and ESTHER and their three children have a home in the Berkeley hills. Hervey holds an important position in chemical research at Shell Development, Emeryville.

Oil company chemists and engineers seem to predominate in present membership. Witness California Research Corporation's (Standard Oil) KEN DAVIS, GEORGE DENISON, DICK FELTER, and CHARLOTTE MAUK; JOE FIREY was there until he became an Ensign in the Navy (reports reach us that he is now torpedo officer "somewhere on the Pacific"), and ALEX HILDEBRAND is in Standard's City office. ROLVIN PETRIE is engineer for Associated Oil Company.

HARRIET PARSONS divides her time between a Post Street book shop, managing her father's home, and working on Sierra Club publications, and still manages to put in plenty of hours with Red Cross, Greek War Relief, and other causes.

EDWARD KOSKINEN and JEAN and their little daughter are in Monterey (Ed being stationed at the Presidio there), and EDWIN KOSKINEN has a Salinas Air Field address.

JOHN JAHN is said to be engaged in a pest control project in Latin America.